

D-756  
Eldorado Elementary School  
Eldorado  
c. 1925  
Private

The Eldorado Elementary School is a distinctive early twentieth-century historic structure for his rural community in eastern Dorchester County. The single-story, stretcher bond brick school building, dating around 1925, retains its essential architectural integrity with original twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The double door entrance features an intact Colonial Revival portico. The Eldorado Elementary School is representative of the wave of larger, better built educational buildings erected across the Eastern Shore during the first decades of the twentieth century. The banks of windows on the front, and particularly on the side elevations, relate to the nationwide policy to improve natural lighting for classroom interiors.

It is not known exactly when a school was first established in the creek village of Crotcher's Ferry, but by the time the 1877 atlas of Talbot and Dorchester counties was published a school was located on the west side of the North West Fork. Designated as "School No. 5," the frame structure was located next to the Methodist Protestant church that stood east of the school. Another one-room facility, "School No. 2" was located on the road north between Crotcher's Ferry and Federalsburg. At the same time, there were six other white schools and one black school in the Fork election district.

The improvements in Maryland education statewide called for the construction of a new generation of better built schools during the early twentieth century. As a result, the eight one-room school for white children in the Fork election district were consolidated into one building that was erected in a central location on the Eldorado-

Sharptown road within the village around 1925. The black children of the district, however, remained in segregated school buildings until the mid twentieth century.

The Dorchester County Board of Education purchased a parcel of land on the east side of the Marshy Hope Creek in 1916, and a single-story brick school was built on the lot during the years that followed. The Dorchester school board held title to the property until 1974 when the brick school house was transferred to the Dorchester County Commissioners. The property was conveyed into private ownership after the town commissioners of Eldorado sold the building in 2004.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-756

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Eldorado Elementary School

other

### 2. Location

street and number 5309 Eldorado-Sharptown Road not for publication

city, town Eldorado vicinity

county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Barry W. Collins

street and number P. O. Box 21 telephone

city, town Rhodesdale state MD zip code 21659

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 561 folio 273

city, town Cambridge tax map 35 tax parcel 118 tax ID number 1-009877

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	1
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Storage	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-756

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Eldorado Elementary School is located at 5309 Sharptown Road in the village of Eldorado, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built around 1925, the single-story, three-bay rectangular brick school has stretcher bond walls that rise to a gable on hip roof. Attached to the back of the main block is a gable roofed wing. The school faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

The single-story brick school, erected around 1925, is located on the southeastern edge of the village of the village on a generous sized lot. Presently used as a storage facility, the rectangular brick structure is laid in stretcher bond with a soldier course defining the top of the foundation level, which has a regular series of squarish vents in regular intervals. Extending from the southwest (rear) wall of the main block is a single-story gable roofed wing, through which a tall squarish brick furnace stack extends well above the structure.

The northeast (main) façade is a symmetrical elevation with a double door entrance sheltered by a neoclassical portico consisting of slender Tuscan columns rising from a low poured concrete platform. The Tuscan columns support a gable roof, which has a round arched undercut ceiling of tongue-and-groove boards. The partially glazed double doors are topped by a large twelve-pane transom. Flanking the entrance are paired sets of twelve-over-twelve sash window openings retaining their original sash. The top of the wall surface is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with an ogee profile crown molding.

The northwest and southeast sides are defined by long banks of nine-over-nine sash window openings that retain their original sash as well.

Covering the southwest (rear) wall of the main block is the gable roofed wing, which has a double door rear entry topped by a multi-pane transom with metal muntins. The double doors are partially glazed. To each side of the rear doorway are six-over-six sash window openings retaining their original sash as well. Located under the east (right) window opening is a cast iron coal shoot door.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-756

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Eldorado Elementary School is a distinctive early twentieth-century historic structure for this rural community in eastern Dorchester County. The single-story, stretcher bond brick school building, dating around 1925, retains its essential architectural integrity with original twelve-over-twelve sash windows. The double-door entrance features its original Colonial Revival portico. The Eldorado Elementary School is representative of the wave of larger, better built educational buildings erected across the Eastern Shore during the first decades of the twentieth century. The banks of windows on the front, and particularly on the side elevations, relate to the nationwide policy to improve natural lighting for classroom interiors.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

It is not known exactly when a school was first established in the creek village of Crotcher's Ferry, but by the time the 1877 atlas of Talbot and Dorchester County was published a school was located on the west side of the North West Fork. Designated as "School No. 5," the frame structure was located next to the Methodist Protestant Church that stood to the east. Another one-room facility, "School No. 2," was located on the road between Crotcher's Ferry and Federalsburg. At the same time, there were six other white schools and one black school in the Fork election district.<sup>11</sup> The improvements in Maryland education statewide called for the construction of a new generation of better built schools during the early twentieth century. As a result, the eight one-room schools for white children in the Fork election district were consolidated into one building erected in Eldorado around 1925. The black children, however, remained in segregated school buildings until the mid twentieth century. The Dorchester

<sup>11</sup> John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Salisbury, MD: Wicomico Bicentennial Committee., 1976, p. 66. "School No. 1," another white school was located in the north end of the Fork district, "School No. 3" was sited next to the Cokesbury Methodist Episcopal Church; "School No. 4" stood next to the Wheatley's Methodist Church; "School No. 6" was located along the county road west of Walnut Landing; "School No. 7" was situated next to the Methodist Episcopal Church in Galestown; "School No. 8" stood on the northern edge of the John N. Wright farm just west of the road between Johnson's Crossroads and Federalsburg. The only school for black children in the Fork election district stood next to the Cokesbury Methodist Church.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Eldorado Elementary School  
**Continuation Sheet**

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County Board of Education purchased a parcel of land on the east side of the Marshy Hope Creek in 1916,<sup>2</sup> and a single-story brick school was erected on the lot during the years that followed. The Dorchester County school board held title to the property until 1974 when the school house lot was transferred to the Dorchester County Commissioners.<sup>3</sup> The property was conveyed to private ownership in 1978 when the town commissioners of Eldorado acquired the building.<sup>4</sup> It was sold into private hands in 2004.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, JFD 38/551, 5 December 1916, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>3</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 187/188, 25 June 1974, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>4</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, PLC 206/259, 11 July 1978, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>5</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, MLB 561/273, 29 January 2004, Dorchester County Courthouse.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Eldorado Elementary School  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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Eldorado Elementary School  
5309 Sharptown Road  
Eldorado, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 35, Parcel 118

MLB 561/273

Commissioners of Eldorado

to

1.29.2004

Barry W. Collins

\$25,600.00

PLC 206/259

County Commissioners of Dorchester County

to

7.11.1978

Commissioners of Eldorado

PLC 187/188

Board of Education

to

6.25.1974

County Commissioners of Dorchester Co.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Eldorado Elementary School  
**Continuation Sheet**

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JFD 38/551

William J. Stack, et ux (Linda A. Stack)

to

12.5.1916

The Board of Education of Dorchester Co.

\$200.00



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-756

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Wicomico Bicentennial Committee: Salisbury, Maryland, 1976, p. 66.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 86,292 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 86,292 square feet  
Quadrangle name Rhodesdale, MD 1974

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

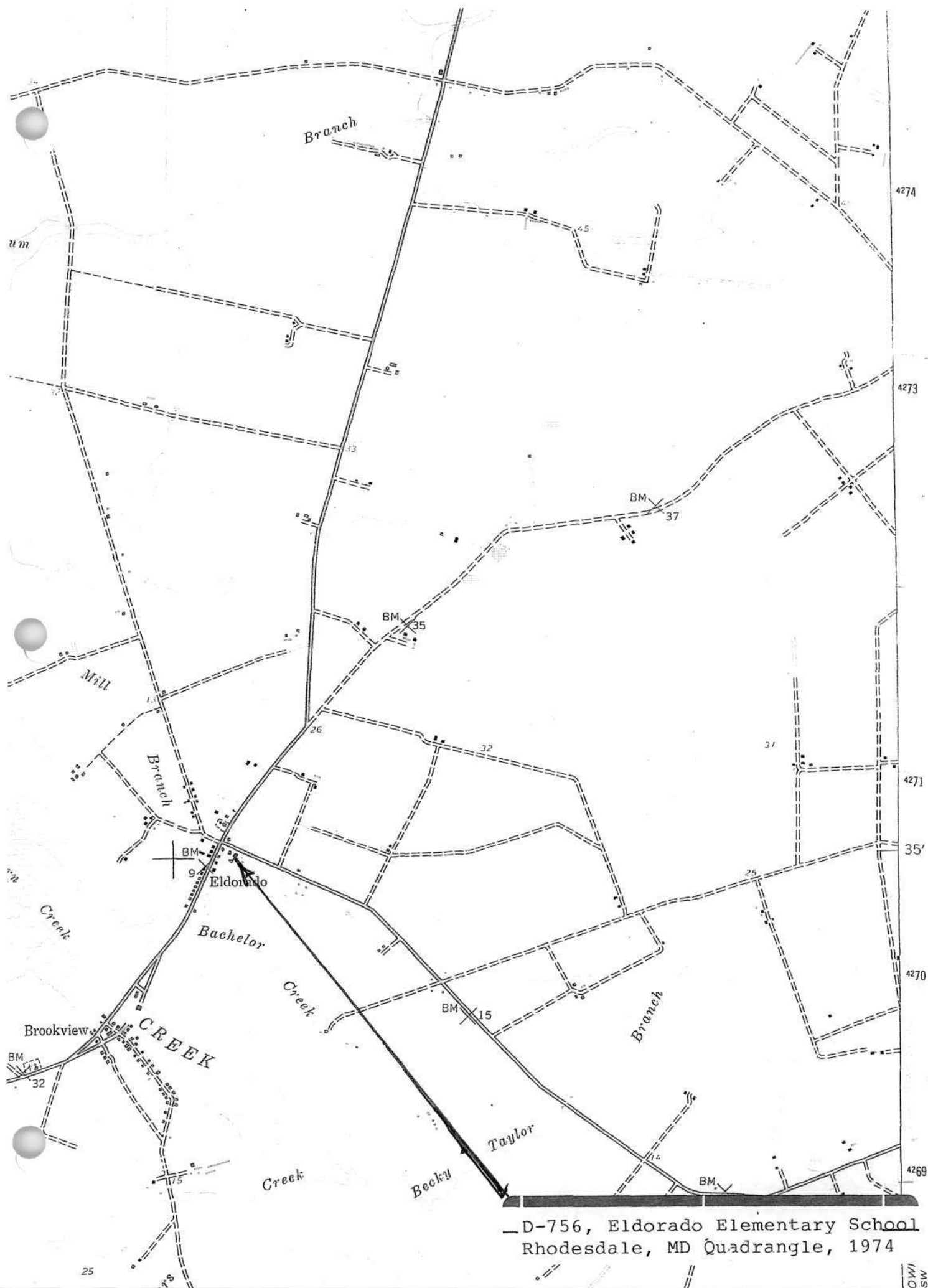
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2/07/2008
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





D-756

ELDONADO ELEMENTARY School  
ELDONADO, DORCHESTER Co., MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOURAST, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-756

ELDONADO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ELDONADO, DICKINSON CO., MO.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ/MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-756

Elsonboro Elementary School  
Elsonboro, Dorchester Co., N.C.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

2/08, Paul Tourant, PITTSBURGH

WTR / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST